

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00750 01 OF 02 142125Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /102 W
-----142229Z 029039 /66

R 142034Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0750

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF
SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON SYG'S
MIDDLE EAST REPORT

REF: USUN 662

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS UNDER
US PRESIDENCY ON MARCH 10 PRODUCED GENERAL VIEW OF UN-
DESIRABILITY OF SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST AT
THIS TIME. SEVERAL SC MEMBERS EXPRESSED DESIRE TO KNOW
EGYPT'S POSITION BEFORE TAKING NEXT STEP ON SYG'S REPORT,
OTHERS HAD QUALIFIED RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION OF LETTER FROM
SC PRESIDENT TO SYG. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND SHERER MET WITH OTHER SECURITY
COUNCIL MEMBERS IN BILATERAL/GROUP CONSULTATIONS ON MARCH 10
TO DISCUSS WAYS OF HANDLING SYG'S REPORT ON THE MIDDLE EAST.
NO MEMBER OBJECTED TO PRESENTATION OF AMBS. YOUNG AND
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00750 01 OF 02 142125Z

SHERER AS TO WHY SC DEBATE COULD DO POTENTIAL HARM TO
PEACE EFFORTS. US NOTED THAT MOREOVER SC CALENDAR WOULD BE
FULL WITH AFRICAN ITEMS THIS MONTH. SOVIET DELEGATION
RAISED QUESTION OF POSSIBLY ACKNOWLEDGING SYG'S
REPORT EITHER ORALLY OR IN WRITING. IF LETTER
WERE AGREED TO BY OTHER MEMBERS, SOVIET DEL WOULD
WANT INCLUDED A REFERENCE TO NEED FOR SPEEDY

RESUMPTION OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. SOVIET AMBASSADOR TROYANOVSKY ADDED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT THE ROLE OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN BE ENHANCED.

3. CANADIAN, FRENCH, BRITISH AND FRG DELEGATIONS AS A GROUP AGREED ON IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING AN SC DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST AND CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF DRAFTING LETTER TO ACKNOWLEDGE SYG'S REPORT. CANADA AND UK DELS NOTED THE DESIRABILITY OF NOT READING LETTER AT A FORMAL SC MEETING AND SUGGESTED LETTER COULD BE BRIEF WITH CLOSING SENTENCE TO EFFECT THAT COUNCIL HOPES THAT SYG WOULD CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS WITH A VIEW TOWARD AN EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. FRG ASKED IF US AS SC PRESIDENT PLANNED TO CONSULT WITH ALL THE PARTIES; US REPLIED CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO SC MEMBERS ONLY.

4. CHINESE DELEGATION SAID CHINA WAS "OPEN-MINDED" ON QUESTION OF HOLDING SC DEBATE ON REPORT BUT WOULD WANT TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION EGYPTIAN AND OTHER ARAB VIEWPOINTS. "IF ARAB COUNTRIES DO NOT PRESS FOR A DEBATE THEN CHINA WILL NOT." ON PROPOSAL OF A LETTER, CHINESE DEL PREFERRED NOT TO COMMENT UNTIL IT HAD CHANCE TO CONSIDER LETTER POSSIBILITY FURTHER AND UNTIL IT COULD REVIEW LETTER IN DRAFT FORM. INDIA AND PAKISTAN INDICATED DESIRE TO DEFER TO THE PARTIES CONCERNED. PAKISTAN SUGGESTED LETTER EMPHASIZE APPRECIATION FOR SYG'S EFFORTS AND URGENT NEED FOR SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.
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PAGE 03 USUN N 00750 01 OF 02 142125Z

5. LIBYA, BENIN, AND MAURITIUS WERE CONSULTED NEXT. LIBYA DEL POINTED OUT THAT "NO ONE WANTS A MIDDLE EAST DEBATE NOW," BUT POSSIBILITY SHOULD BE LEFT OPEN FOR A DEBATE ONE OR TWO MONTHS HENCE. HE SEEMED AFRAID THAT A LETTER NOW WOULD BE USED LATER TO ARGUE AGAINST SC DEBATE IN LATER MONTHS. MAURITIUS REPORTED THAT FROM A MEETING LAST WEEK WITH AMB. MEGUID, IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT EGYPT DOES NOT BELIEVE A MEETING IN MARCH WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HE AGREED WITH LIBYAN DEL THAT LETTER SHOULD BE DRAFTED IN SUCH A WAY SO AS NOT TO APPEAR TO BE DISPOSING OF THE ITEM. BENIN CHIMED IN, SUGGESTING THAT LETTER SHOULD INDICATE THAT SC IS RETAINING MIDDLE EAST REPORT ON ITS ACTIVE AGENDA. LIBYA STRESSED THAT LETTER NOT SEEM TO SUGGEST ITEM WAS BEING LAID ASIDE BUT ADDED THAT LIBYA IN ANY EVENT MIGHT HAVE TO DISASSOCIATE FROM PROPOSED LETTER IF LETTER MADE REFERENCE TO THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WHICH LIBYA HAS NEVER ACCEPTED. LIBYA ADDED THAT IT UNDERSTOOD EGYPT AND SYRIA DID

NOT WANT AN SC DEBATE OF SYG'S REPORT AT THIS TIME.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00750 02 OF 02 142130Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0750

6. FINALLY, ROMANIA SAID IT WOULD WANT TO KNOW HOW
THE POSITIONS OF THE PARTIES BEFORE DISCUSSING LETTER;
PANAMA NOTED IT WOULD LIKE ALL THE PARTIES CONSULTED
(US REPLIED AGAIN NEGATIVELY), AND VENEZUELA
ADHERED TO PANAMA VIEW THAT IT WOULD AGREE TO WHATEVER
WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARAB STATES.

7 IN LATER CONVERSATION WITH UN SECRETARIAT
OFFICIAL JONAH ON GENERAL ASPECTS OF BILATERAL CONSUL-
TATIONS, HE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS PRECEDENT FOR
PRESIDENT OF SC TO REPORT ORALLY TO THE SYG ON HIS
CONSULTATIONS, ALTHOUGH JONAH CONSIDERED A LETTER
WOULD ALSO BE WELL RECEIVED BY THE SYG.

8. EGYPTIAN MISSION INFORMED US LATE EVENING MARCH 10
THAT THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS
MATTER, AND BECAUSE OF PRESS OF OTHER BUSINESS IN
CAIRO, EGYPTIAN MISSION DOUBTS INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE
RECEIVED IN NEXT FEW DAYS. EGYPTIANS ARE ALSO WAITING
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PAGE 02 USUN N 00750 02 OF 02 142130Z

FOR INSTRUCTIONS ON LETTER SUGGESTION.

9. COMMENT: WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE CAN ADVANCE FURTHER THE LETTER PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME UNTIL THE ARAB (EGYPTIAN) POSITION IS KNOWN. HOWEVER, WE DO SEE CERTAIN MERIT IN AN ORAL REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE SYG ON THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS. THIS COULD TAKE PLACE IN THE NEXT COUPLE OF DAYS AND COULD SERVE TO FULFILL AT LEAST PARTIALLY SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION WITH REGARD TO THE SYG'S INTEREST IN THE REPORT BUT WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A LETTER AT A LATER TIME IF CONSIDERED USEFUL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECRETARY GENERAL, REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN00750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 662
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 3113218
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY COUNCIL BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON SYG'S MIDDLE EAST REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, XF, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/993f7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009